

## REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: Wilcox Oil (06NH)

DATE: March 21, 2013

CONTACT: Lance Nixon  
EPA Enforcement Officer

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: PRP Search Status

DEADLINE DATE: June 30, 2013

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### BACKGROUND:

The Site consists of the former Lorraine/Wilcox Refinery located in Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma. The property was utilized by two different refineries with overlapping boundaries from 1915 to 1965. The Site includes remnants of former oil refining operations and tank farms. The Site has three major former operational areas and product storage areas. An active railroad divides the two former processing areas and product storage areas. Most of the refinery structures and tanks have been removed or are in ruins. The tank farm covers approximately 80 acres and has a number of refinery waste source areas of concern, including, a backfilled oily waste pond, a breached settling pond, a backfilled oily waste pit, a former pond apparently backfilled with solid refinery waste, and a number of tank bottoms. The results of samples collected observed releases to shallow ground water, surface water, sediment and subsurface soils. The results indicated high concentration of petroleum hydrocarbons, lead, and poly aromatic hydrocarbons in oily waste at numerous locations on Site. There are high concentrations of lead throughout the Site. There are multiple areas of stressed vegetation, barren areas, and visible black tarry waste of a hydrocarbon nature throughout the 125 acre Site.

### CURRENT STATUS:

A deed and title search indicated that 7 oil companies owned or operated at the Site, Bristow Oil and Refinery, Continental Oil and Refinery, Lorraine Refining, Interocean Oil Company, Producers Oil Company, Bolin Oil, and Wilcox Oil Company. Based on corporate research 2 of the 7 companies appear to be viable, Kinder Morgan (fka Wilcox Oil, Tenneco, and El Paso Energy Corporation) and ConocoPhillips (fka Continental Oil).

Wilcox Oil purchased the Site in January 17, 1929, and purchased the Lorraine portion of the Site on August 9, 1937. Wilcox Oil owned and operated the entire Site until November 1, 1963. Wilcox Oil was bought by Tenneco which later became part of El Paso Energy Corp. (EPEC) and EPEC later merged into Kinder Morgan. Continental Oil, now ConocoPhillips, owned and operated a refinery on the Lorraine portion of the Site from September 30, 1916 to July 26, 1923.

On October 30, 2012, Enforcement issued a CERCLA 104(e) request to Kinder Morgan Incorporated. The response was received on January 8, 2013. ORC is continuing its review of the 104(e) response and consulting with DOJ on the environmental trust issues raised by Kinder Morgan. A 104(e) to ConocoPhillips (fka Continental Oil) is in concurrence.

### ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

Wilcox Oil Site sources include contaminated soil, cooling ponds, and numerous tank bottoms. Currently, a church and six residents are located within the former refinery boundaries, half of which



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utilize ground water from private wells. Intermittent streams drain the source areas and flow to Sand Creek. A release of copper, lead, and PAHs has been documented to the wetlands of Sand Creek. Sand creek flows to Little Deep Fork Creek from which fish are caught for human consumption.

**TECHNICAL CONCERNS:**

No technical concerns at this time.

**REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Complete analysis of EPEC Oil Liquidating Trust that was provided by Kinder Morgan in their 104(e) response. (Attorney Marvin Benton)

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

No community concerns at this time.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Issue notice letters to prior owners of the Site, Kinder Morgan and Conoco Phillips. Special Notice letter issuance planned August 15, 2013.

**PRP's identified**

**Prior Owners/Operators**

- Kinder Morgan
- ConocoPhillips



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